Claims

1. An electronically controlled sealing tape dispenser, comprising:
   (a) a housing;
   (b) means disposed in said housing to select a first selected length of sealing tape to be dispensed;
   (c) means disposed in said housing to dispense said first selected length of sealing tape; and
   (d) electronic means to control dispensing of said first selected length of sealing tape.

2. An electronically controlled sealing tape dispenser, as defined in Claim 1, further comprising:
   (a) an idler wheel fixedly mounted on an idler wheel shaft disposed in said housing, said idler wheel being disposed so as to rotate as said first selected length of sealing tape is dispensed; and
   (b) means mounted on said idler wheel shaft to measure rotation of said idler wheel shaft and to output a signal to said electronic means representative of rotations of said idler wheel shaft.

3. An electronically controlled sealing tape dispenser, as defined in Claim 2, wherein: said means mounted on said idler wheel comprises an optical encoder.

4. An electronically controlled sealing tape dispenser, as defined in Claim 1, further comprising:

(a) means to add or subtract an increment of sealing tape length to or from said first selected length of sealing tape; and

(b) means to double or halve length of said first selected length of sealing tape;

and wherein:

(c) said means to double or halve length of said first selected length of sealing tape also doubles or halves, respectively, said increment of sealing tape length.

5. An electronically controlled sealing tape dispenser, as defined in Claim 1, further comprising: means to automatically correct for errors in length of said first selected length of sealing tape.

6. An electronically controlled sealing tape dispenser, as defined in Claim 5, further comprising: electronic memory which includes therein correction lengths as a function of selected lengths of sealing tape.

7. An electronically controlled sealing tape dispenser, as defined in Claim 1, further comprising: means to automatically dispense from said sealing tape dispenser a second selected length of sealing tape after said first selected length of sealing tape is removed and in response to said first selected length of sealing tape is removed from said electronically controlled sealing tape dispenser, without any other action on the part of an operator of said electronically controlled sealing tape dispenser.

8. An electronically controlled sealing tape dispenser, as defined in Claim 1, wherein: said electronic means includes first electronic controls disposed in said housing.

9. An electronically controlled sealing tape dispenser, as defined in Claim 8, further comprising: remote second electronic controls operatively connected to said first electronic controls.

10. A method of electronically controlling a sealing tape dispenser, comprising:

(a) determining a first selected length of sealing tape to be dispensed; and

(b) employing electronic means to control dispensing of said first selected length of sealing tape.

11. A method of electronically controlling a sealing tape dispenser, as defined in Claim 10, further comprising:

(a) providing an idler wheel fixedly mounted on an idler wheel shaft disposed in a housing of said sealing tape dispenser, said idler wheel being disposed so as to rotate as said first selected length of sealing tape is dispensed; and

(b) measuring rotation of said idler wheel shaft and outputting a signal to said electronic means representative of rotations of said idler wheel shaft.

12. A method of electronically controlling a sealing tape dispenser, as defined in Claim 11, further comprising: using an optical encoded to measure rotation of said idler wheel shaft.

13. A method of electronically controlling a sealing tape dispenser, as defined in Claim 10, further comprising:

(a) adding or subtracting an increment of sealing tape length to or from said first selected length of sealing tape; and

(b) means to double or halve length of said first selected length of sealing tape, including said increment of sealing tape length.

14. A method of electronically controlling a sealing tape dispenser, as defined in Claim 10, further comprising: automatically correcting for errors in length of said first selected length of sealing tape.

15. A method of electronically controlling a sealing tape dispenser, as defined in Claim 14, further comprising: employing an electronic memory which includes therein correction lengths as a function of selected lengths of sealing tape.

16. A method of electronically controlling a sealing tape dispenser, as defined in Claim 10, further comprising: automatically dispensing from said sealing tape dispenser a second selected length of sealing tape after said first selected length of sealing tape is removed and in response to said first selected length of sealing tape being removed from said electronically controlled sealing tape dispenser, without any other action on the part of an operator of said electronically controlled sealing tape dispenser.

17. A method of electronically controlling a sealing tape dispenser, as defined in Claim 10, further comprising: providing said electronic means including first electronic controls disposed in said housing.

18. A method of electronically controlling a sealing tape dispenser, as defined in Claim 10, further comprising: providing remote second electronic controls operatively connected to said first electronic controls.